

applicant, particularly as it appears that the \$102 rejection was made without benefit of the reference itself.

With regard to claim 30, for example, applicant submits that DE '544 does not teach or suggest that the workpiece holding members and the displacement drives are operatively mounted on the transport arrangement rotation drive.


With regard to the above amended claims 1 and 16, and the claims dependent therefore, there is no teaching or suggestion in DE '544 to displace transport arms and associated conveyors at least partially in a radial direction relative to the drive shaft rotational axis.

In light of the foregoing comments, an early and complete non-final action on the merits, based upon DE '544 and/or JP '727, is earnestly solicited.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #622/40901CO).

Respectfully submitted,

January 18, 2000


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